

scans the laser beam within a predetermined surface; (3) a screen to which the laser beam is projected from a backside of the screen; (4) a light source unit for screen monitoring that emits invisible light from monitoring the screen; (5) a screen monitoring unit that receives the invisible light reflected from the screen; (6) a beam light supply stopping unit that controls the laser beam source so as to stop output of a laser beam based on an output of the screen monitoring unit; and (7) a housing that covers an optical path from the laser beam source to the backside of the screen.

The Office Action asserts that Burstyn teaches all the elements of claim 5, except "a light source unit from a screen monitoring that emits invisible light from monitoring the screen; a screen monitoring unit that receives invisible light reflected from the screen; a beam light supply stopping unit that controls the laser beam source so as to stop output of the laser beam based on an output of the screen monitoring unit; and a housing that covers an optical path from the laser beam source to the back side of the screen." Further, the Office Action asserts that Burstyn employs that a focus and aim device 342 that operates depending on the state of the screen. However, the Office Action concedes that Burstyn fails to teach, disclose or suggest the feature of an on and off operation of the light source dependent on the state of the screen.

The Office Action further asserts that Turushima illustrates that the means for detecting invisible light is reflected from a screen, and that using the detected invisible light to turn a laser light source off and on are well known in the art. Moreover, the Office Action alleges that the motivation for one having ordinary skill in the art to make such a modification would be to improve the safety of the device for any observer.

Turushima discloses a forward type projector which irradiates laser beams at different colors swept by a galvano-mirror onto to a display screen by way of an objective lens, as discussed at col. 3, line 67-col. 4, line 5, and in Fig. 1. Pursuant to Turushima, a viewer may

inadvertently intrude into a projection area as disclosed at col. 4, lines 13-17. Therefore, according to Turushima, an obstacle may intrude between the object lens, or the projector, and the display screen. To cure this problem, Turushima detects the obstacle and shuts down the laser beams according to the detection of the obstacle, as disclosed at col. 2, line 66-col. 3, line 8.

In contrast, Burstyn teaches a rear projection type projector where an image source is positioned behind a transmission screen, and provides a small bright image to a projection lens which enlarges the light and directs the image to the transmission screen via a turning mirror, and an audience views the projected image from the transmission screen, as disclosed at col. 1, lines 31-38. In the rear projection type projector, a light path from a light source to the screen is disposed within a space enclosed by a cabinet and the screen, and therefore there is no possibility of intrusion of the obstacle such as a viewer or an audience between the light source and the screen.

Therefore, because of the configuration of the projector taught in Burstyn, the system disclosed in Burstyn is not confronted with the problem that an obstacle may intrude between the object lens, or the projector, and display screen, as disclosed in Turushima. Thus, because Turushima's problem does not exist in Burstyn, the combination of Turushima and Burstyn is not possible and certainly would not be obvious. For at least the foregoing discussion, one having an ordinary skill in the art would not have motivation to modify the rear projection system of Burstyn to include an infrared detection system taught by Turushima.

In view of at least the foregoing, claim 5 is not obvious from the combination of Turushima and Burstyn, because the combination is impossible and/or impractical.

MPEP §2143.03 instructs that "the mere fact that references can be combined or modified does not render the resultant combination obvious unless the prior art also suggested the desirability of the combination." MPEP §2143.01 further instructs that "although a prior

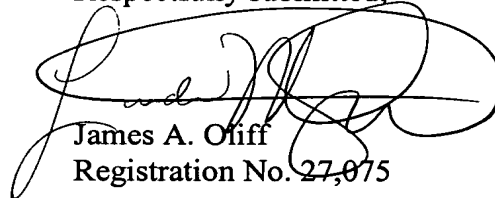
art device may be capable of being modified to run the way the apparatus is claimed, there must be a suggestion or motivation in the reference to do so." Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of at least independent claim 5 under the combination of Burstyn and Turushima is improper in view of at least MPEP §2143.01 because the Office Action lacks the required specific evidence of a teaching, suggestion or motivation in the prior art for one of ordinary skill to combine the references.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Linda M. Saltiel
Registration No. 51,122

JAO:LMS:DQS/jfb

Date: June 26, 2007

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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